

lefts to make you Merie:

With
*The Coniuring vp of Cock Watt, (the
walking Spirit of Newgate)*
To tell Tales.

Vnto which is Added, the miserie of
a Prison, and a Prisoner.

And a Paradox in praise of *Serieants*.

Written by T.D. and George Wilkins.



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Butter, dwelling neere to St. Austins Gate,
at the signe of the pide Bull.

1607.





To the Reader.



Ookes are a strange commoditie, the estimation of them riseth and falleth faster then the exchange of money in the Low countries, which alters more often then the english man doth the fashion of his apparell. Men that write to feede fantastike humors, are no better then Apes, that shew their trickes to others, the doing of which is painefull to themselves, and at going away are but laught at, and so nice are our Paules Churchyard-walkers in beholding these pictures, that to day they cry excellent at the drawing of that, vpon which to morrow they will cast a mewing countenance, ther's no one Stationer itall can fit all customers with bookes to their dyet, nor can all men that write (if all that can but speake should write) fit some Stationers. Go to one and offer a coppy, if it be merrie, the man likes no light stuffe, if sad, it will not sell. Another meddles with nothing but what fits the time, I wold haue his shop stufte with nothing but proclamations, because he lyes i'th winde only for the change of weather. Since therefore that neither hot nor colde can please, neither straight nor crooked, can serue as a measure, to some mouthes; what a miserable and endlesse labour does he vndertake that in a few scribled sheetes hopes to wrap vp the loues of all men. Better it were for him in my iudge-

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ment to turne his leaues into such paper-kites as boyes runne after, whilst they flye in the Ayre, then to publish his wits in Follie, and yet be counted but a foole for his labour. Yet notwithstanding, with such a tickling Itch is this printed Ambition troubled, that some are neuer at better ease then when they are scratching vpon paper, and finde no sweetnesse but in drawing blood. Of those sharp-toothed dogs you shall finde me none, I haue no whip in my hande, but a soft fether, and there drops rather water then gall out of my quill, if you taste it and finde it pleasing. I am glad, if not, I cannot be much sorry, because the Cooke knew not your dyer, so that his error was his ignorance, and ignorance is a veniall sinne to be pardoned.

*Nam veniam pro laude peto : Laudatus abunde
Non fastiditus si tibi (Lector) ero.*

T.D. and G.W.



Jests to make you Merrie.

What a Jest is.



Jest is the bubling bp of wit. It is a Banim which beeing well kindled maintaines for a short time the heate of laughter. It is a weapon wherewith a foole does oftentimes fight, and a wise man defends himselfe by. It is the soue of good companie, if it bee seasoned with iudgement: but if with too much tartnesse, it is hardly digested but turne to quarrel. A jest is tried as powder is, the most sudden is the best. It is a merrie Gentleman and hath a brother so like him, that many take them for Twins: for the one is a Jest spoken, the other is a Jest done. Stay but the reading of this booke some halfe an houre, and you shall bee brought acquainted with both.

The 1. Jest.

A fellow that (to be a foole in print) had spent the stocke of his wits vpon inke and paper, and made it into a booke, offered it to sell at diuerse Stationers stals, but none would buy it: At the length he came to one of the company, and swore to him he should not neede to feare to venture money vpon it, for

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it would be to him an everlasting booke. Wh says the other then I will not meddle with it; everlasting bookes are ill commodities in our trade, bzing me a booke that will go away, and I am so; you.

The 2. Iest.

A Justice of Peace found his man laying his mistress on the tippes, at which the Justice in a rage, and wrapping out a great oath, cald him Rascall, and asked him what he did, why says the fellow (and swoze as deepe as he) I was kissing your wife. The Justice told him if he took him kissing there againe, he would make him kisse in another place. Truth sir (says the Servingman) had not you come in, I had kist in another place indeed.

The 3. Iest.

A Citizen meeting by chance a kinsman of his, about the Strand, that was come to the Tearme, askt him where he had bene, who told him he had bene at Westminster: And what newes (quoth he) at Westminster; Mary says the other Lawyers get the Dinell and all: What an Ass, replied the Citizen is the dinell: if I were as he I would get some of them.

The 4. Iest.

In the Quenes time a couple of Merchants walking on the Change, amongst other newes, the one told y other, he thought the peace betwene England and Spaine would be broken: God help the poze Justices then (answered the other) for if the peace be broken, sure y Justices of the Peace cannot be found.

The 5. Iest.

A bad countrey Parson inviting certaine of his friends to the eating of a tyth pigge and some other good chere, one
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of the guests brought along with him a Precisian, (which sect the person neuer could abide) and hauing car'd once or twice to the rest. At length he cald aloud in latin to the Precisian (for he tooke him to be a scholler, because he went all in blacke) Heus domine, vis tu Comedere Turdum, vis tu comedere Fartum, vis tu comedere pistum Fartum. At which the other blessing himselfe, to thinke that a Churchman should utter such filthy words (as he construed them) rose from the board and departed reprouing the Parson for a beastly and unmannerly christian, whereas by Turdum he meant a blacke bird, that stood on the board, by Fartum a pudding, and by pistum fartum, a pan-pudding thats bak'd.

The 6. Iest.

Doe you see yonder baton, saies one to his companion (sitting in a play-house together) she should haue bin burnt once in Paris for a martir: A martir quoth the other: why she has suffered for the truth heere in London, for she was carted but last weeke.

The 7. Iest.

Sirra (saies a Justice to a bailiffe, that had brought a cut-spurle before him) keepe that knaue till I call for him anon when I am more at leasure: yes quoth the bailiffe, I will keepe the knaue for your worship.

The 8. Iest.

A woman seeing a tumult in the open street, about a man and a woman, askt one of the standers by, what the matter was: saies he. Thou art a whoze; Thou art an arrant knaue (saies the woman) to call me whoze, why about this (quoth the party that was askt the question) did those two fall out.

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The 9. Iest.

One called a Captaine coward, and said he had no heart. its no matter, quoth the Captaine, I haue legs.

The 10. Iest.

What is the reason saies, a Gentleman to his friend, that chesse-play (being so witty a game) is not bled so much now as it had wont to be: diuerse reasons, saies the others one is because Rookes stand too neere the Bishops: another is because Knights had wont to be better then pawns, but now a good pawne is better then a Knight.

The 11. Iest.

A Taylo2 in this Towne maintaint a whoze besides his wife, who afterwards came to the knowledge of it: where upon, one wondering how it should be discovered, because the Taylo2 was a close fellow, askt one of his neighbors, how the diuell his wife could smell out his wench: oh; easily replied the other, so2 he kept her vnder his wifes nose.

The 12. Iest.

An auncient Gentlewoman making her b2age, that she was descended from Iohn of Gaunt: One that stood by, sayd he thought she was rather descended from William the Conquero2, because her face was so old.

The 13. Iest.

One demanded of his friend what was the reason that when a man meets a light Wench, the first word he speaks to her is, Gentlewoman will you goe to the Tanerne? It saies the other, a Leman is neuer good without wine.

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The 14. Iest.

A Couple of Servingmen, hauing drunke hard in Southwarke, came to take water about ten or eleauen of the clock at night, at S. Mary-onerles staires: But the dyane sitting, and a puddle of water lying before them, which they could not perfectly discerne (without better eyes) by reason that their shadowes hid it, one of them stumbled and fell in, labouring with his hands & feete as if he had bin a swimming. his fellowe stood (so well as a man in his case could stand, looking vpon him & sayd: Art thou gon? Art thou gon? Iesus recreate thy soule, yet if thou canst but get the Temple staires, theirs some hope thou shalt doe well enough: tush saies the other (that was downe,) I looke not to get, so I may saue my selfe, I care for no more.

The 15. Iest.

A Silly fellow being for some misdemeano2 brought before the old Recorder, after some short examination, was (by him) demaunded whom he seru'd; I serue (quoth the fellow) a poore kinsman of your good worship. A poore kinsman of mine thou barlet, who is that? looke you saies he, and dyke from vnder his cloake a flute.

The 16. Iest.

A Player riding with his fellowes (in a yeare of Peregrination) by and downe the countries, resolved to be merry, tho they got little money, and being to passe through a Towne, he gets a good way before the rest, crying (with his drawne Rapier in his hand) which is the Constables house where is the Constable; the dogs of the parrish at the noise, fell to barking, the Threshers came running out with their flails, the Clounes with rakes & pitch-forks, asking without what the matter was, cried All, and you be men bring me to the Constable. At last, the wise Gentleman appeared in his likeness: Are you

the Constable saies the player, yes that I am so; fault of a better, quoth he, why then blurt Paister Constable saies the other, and clapping spurres to his horse, galloped away amaine, some of the companions laughing, others rayling, the Constable swearing, and the rest of the players that came behind, post through the thickest of them, and laughing the whole Towne to scorn, as if it had bin the foole in a Comedie, which made y^e hob-naille-wearers stampe tenne times worse then they did before.

The 17. Iest.

A Company of merry Gallants, comming in a winter night late from a Tauerne, to increase that mirth in the streets (as they went along) which the wine had begotten in them before, fell to taking downe of Lathornes that their hung out. And one of them being nibling to vntie the cord at which a sconce hung: a seruant of the house by chance suddenly opened the doore, and tooke him at his worke, roughly asking him what he meant to doe there, nothing Sir, saies the other, but to snuff your candle.

The 18. Iest.

A Young man passing to his lodging somewhat late, was by the dreadfull voyce of browne-bilmen, cald to come before the Constable; he did so, but perceiuing him that sat there in the examiners office to be no Constable, but knew him to be a bare Deputie, and had so; wages serued (so; other men) some sixe or seauen yeares together, y^e fellow gaue him scurvy words, so; which the Vice-regent of the Ward, grew so into choller, y^e he swore, the great Turke should not ransom him from lying by the heeles: nay more, he would execute Justice in his owne proper naturall person, and leade him himselfe; he did so, and the other went before, but in the middle of Cheape-side hee kneeled downe, crying out aloud: O thou euerlasting Constable, what meanest thou to doe with me?

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The 19. Iest.

A Servingman bringing a Capon and white-broth to the table, stumbled & let all fall to the ground, for which his Maister reviled him, and sayd, I could haue done so much my selfe, I thinke so, quoth the fellow; any foole may doe it, now tis done before him.

The 20. Iest.

Vpon a time when there was a great muster made by the Citty, of souldiers, a countrie fellow seeing them march through the streets, inquired of one that stood likewise by as a beholder, to what end these souldiers kept this marching? may to Wile-end saies the other: yea but to what end, are those Lighters and Boates, and whips, providing on the River? quoth the country mā, why to Cheames-end, answered the other, nay but then saies he againe, to what end should they make such a doo both by Land and water? saith replied the other, to no End.

The 21. Iest.

I thinke (saies one to his friend) I am the arrantest corcomb living: truth, so thinke I, saies the other: why should you thinke so (replied the first, and grew halfe angry) may sayd the second, because you say so, & I hope none should know that bet-then your selfe.

The 22. Iest.

A paire of Players growing into an emulous contention of one anothers worth, refused to put themselves to a day of hearing (as any Players would haue done) but stood onely upon their good parts. Why saies the one, since thou wouldest faine be taken for so rare a peece, report before all these (for they had a

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small

(small audience about them you must note) what excellent parts thou hast discharged? Mary saies the other, I haue so naturally playd the Puritane, that many tooke me to be one. True saies the first agen, thou playdst the Puritane so naturally, that thou couldest neuer play the honest man afterwards: but I (quoth he) haue playd the Dophy: the Dophy, replied the second: what a murren was he? What was he saies the other: why he was a Turke: right, quoth his aduersarie, get to play as many Turkes parts as thou canst, for he bee hangd if euer thou playst a good christian.

The 23. Iest.

A Gentlewoman comming to one that stood at a window reading a booke, Sir (sayd she) I would I were your booke, (because she lou'd the Gentleman,) so would I quoth he, I wish you were. But what booke would you haue me to bee (sayd the other) if I were to be so? Mary, an Almanacke (quoth the Gentleman) because I would change every yeare.

The 24. Iest.

Two Brothers meeting together, sayd the welthier of them, to the other: And how goes the world Brother? what, you rub out, make shift to live Yes saith replied the second, I thank God, and live without shifting too.

The 25. Iest.

A Cittizen sitting with his wife at dooze, cald his child to him (that was playing before them,) to giue him an apple, and bid him say, thanke you Father. the mother likewise was busie to teach him that lesson But a Gentleman passing by, in at the instant, (who belike had taken vp of the wife, some of her husbands commodities) stept to her, and whispering in her eare, asked if she were not ashamed to teach her child to lie being yong: the

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the husband seeing a stranger so saucie with his wife, grew halfe angry, and askt her what customer that was, & what he spake in her eare: Nothing Sir (sayd she) but seeing me eate apples, hee askt if I would haue any chéste to my fruit.

The 26. Iest.

VVhat reason (saies one to his friend) has your Lord to keepe a foole? He hath no reason at all, answered the other.

The 27. Iest.

Thou art an arrant Begger, saies a Merchant to a Scholler: true Sir, (answered the Scholler) for I am an honest man: but you can be no Begger, for all the city knowes you play the Merchant.

The 28. Iest.

A woman finding her husband reeling in the streets, till he was unable to stand, rayld upon him, and sayd: art not thou ashamed to lie like a drunken beast, thus in the open streets? thou liest like a sober whoze as thou art, quoth hee, if I were a beast, I would not be drunke.

The 29. Iest.

One that had bin knighted but lately, ryding through Boules churchyard, his wife, his chamber-maids, the nurse, and two young children, sitting in the Coach with him, his sonne and heire, leading the way before: the creatures in blew, trotting too and too behind: Wh saies a prentice that stood in his shop, to his fellow: By Loue me thinkes, its a bzane thing, to be a knight: A bzane thing, quoth his fellow: what an asse art thou: a man may haue any thing for money.

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The 30 Iest

A sold man talking with his sonne, and comparing this Age, with that which he liued in, when he was a Boy : said, that now the world was cleane sound upside downe: say thats not true father. (replied the other) for if it were so, women should goe with their heeles upwards.

The 31. Iest.

A Lady that by sitting to see a play at Court, came home late, cald for victuals, and swoze she was as hungry as a dogge: It may be as a bitch Adam (sayd her page, standing by) else the comparison will not hold.

The 32. Iest.

A fishmonger hauing lost all his money at dice, to another gamster, sauing thre or foure shillings, clapt it all downe on the boord together: What doe you set (sayd the other: this Doffer quoth the fishmonger) and then I haue done.

The 33. Iest.

One that had neuer bin seene to handle weapon, being met with a great basket-hilt sword by his side was demanded, why he caried so much Iron about him. Mary sayd he, for foure causes, to kill dogs, and to keepe off Sergeants, to huff balldes, and to guard my whoze.

The 34. Iest.

A young man, being taken by a watch in the day time, for an idle fellow. was by a Constable brought before one of the Sheriffes of London, and being examined what he was, and whom he had serued, it was found that hee had bin in Lierse seruices, but had shifted his Masters almost every yeere whereupon the Sheriffe sayd, hee should goe to b;detwell, and there gride

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grind chalke. I am contented to doe so, answered the fello w, but doe me Justice good & suffer & be iust. let all your Officers be sent to grind chalke too, for I am sure they shift their spallers, euery peere aswell as I.

The 35. Iest.

A Barber standing very sadly at his shop doore, one of his customers came to him, and asked him why he lookt so scurnily: Wh sayd the Barber, my maide has had a soze mischance, my man has playd the knave with her, and got her with child: Call you that a mischance quoth the other? of all chances in the dice, I warrant your maide likes that best: your man has done no moze then what he is bound to by indenture, which is to follow his trade, and thats to trimme folkes.

The 36. Iest.

A Country Gentleman comming downe Westward by water to London, vpon the day when my Lord Maiors Galley Feist was in all her holliday attire, and seeing such triumphing on the Theames, but not knowing the cause, demanded of his Watermen, why there was such drumming, and piping, and trumpeting, and wherefoze all those Barges (like so many Water-pageants) were caryed vp and downs so gaylie with flags, and streamers: It was told him, the Lord Mayor went that day to be swozne, to Westminister. What neede your Lord Mayor (quoth he) goe so farre to be swozne: I haue heard there is as good swearing in London, as in any place in England: but goe all these (in blacke gownes) to be swozne there too? He (Sir) sayd his Waterman, these sweare fast enough in the cittle.

The 37. Iest.

A Company of Gallants hauing supped in a Tauerne, and being (as the fashion is) extremely over-reckend in their
C: bill

bill of Items, yet paying all, departed in as extream a chafe; swearing, neuer to hold vp their hands agen, at that vnnmercifull barre: One of the rest, as he went along, demanded in mockerie, what was to pay: Nothing, sayd one of the pewter-pot-clinkers: All is payd sir; ile take my oath vpon a booke: All is payd answered the other, so, we payd you well, and you haue payd vs soundly.

The 38. Iest.

A Scrinener meeting an Attornie in Fleete-Streete, (after some talke had passed betwene them) asked him how they should doe now, so much of the tearme was cut off: truth saies the Attornie, so, my part He shuffls so, one: Michaelmas tearme you know is like a great household lease, you may cut out a good many shies, and yet feede vpon it well too, I care not, so I may come but to haue a cut, at the last cante. But how (quoth the Scrinener) if it bee cut all cleane away: Say it bee (replied the Lawyer,) its but like a Barbers cutting off a mans haire, within a little time after it will grow againe, and he saies to shauing againe.

The 39. Iest.

VVhen the Horse stood on the top of Poules, a Seruing-man came sweating to his Maister, that was walking in the middle Ile. and told him the wonder he had scene, and what multitudes of people were in the Streets staring to behold it, the fellow most vehemently intreating his Maister, to goe and make one. Away thou foole (sayd hee) what neede I goe so farre to see a Horse on the top, when I can looke vpon so many Ases at the bottome: O yes Sir, replied the Seruing-man, you may see Ases heere euery day, but peradventure you shall neuer see a Horse there againe though there were a thousand beasts in the cittie.

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The 40. Iest.

A Clarke of *St. Dunstons Hall*, being requested by his Client (at the end of a *Trial*) to draw him out a bill of charges: *Yes* sayd the Clarke, I will draw it out presently, and did so, the Client running it over, knew to himselfe, that he was at more cost with him, then was needfull, yet sayd nothing, because hee was to use his helpe in other matters, but payd it all: and then requested my young Lawyer, to goe drinke a cup of *Pulcadine* with him at the *Tauerne*, which he did: the Client at the end of the shot, paying all too. *May then* (quoth the Clarke) *By the Lord*, I haue done you wrong, to put you to so much charges, In good troth answered the Client, so I thought before, though I sayd nothing, but since you sweare it, now I dare verily belicue it.

The 41. Iest.

Two Cittizens ouer-taking one another, as they came from *Westminster*, (the one of them being exceeding pensive,) it was askt by the other, why he went so heavily: *Quoth hee*, I haue reason to goe heavily, for I had an *Action* tryed to day at *Westminster*, of 200. *l.* and it is gone against me. Who was your Counsell sayd the other: *May* such a one, replied the second. What strange qualities, (quoth the first) haue these men of law. the selfe same man that makes you so heavy, has made me exceeding light.

The 42. Iest.

A Prisoner that stood upon his comming forth, was put backe till he had payd, such fees as the keepers demanded of him, which he thought were unreasonable, and against both lawe and conscience, whereupon he rauid at them, cald them bloud-hounds, bloud-suckers, hel-hounds, and such other vngoodly names: but one standing by, counsaile him to hold his tongue,

and not to spit his venome against men that are in place, so; sayd hee, Keepers of Prisons are as good men as the best, where they take.

The 43. Iest.

A Young wanton wench that had maryed an old man, being a Foxrester, whō she had so transford, that somming amongst the heard of Deere: he went so; a Stag, fell suddenly sicke, so; the loue of a Gallāt, that had a good while together gone a hunting with her, but vpon some dislike of his game, gaue it ouer: the kind old fellow her husband, that suspected nothing, brought her a Doctor, but the cause of her disease being lone, she prou'd him a Dunce; he could neither by her water, no; by feeling her pulse, find what sickness bzied within her: whereupon the old Kanger her husband, perswaded her, to shew all how it came first vpon her, so; sayd he, we must hide nothing from our Whittian. Why then (quoth she) good husband shew your so; head to him, which we thinkes is all broken out: Alas sayd he, that's onely the weaknes of thy sight. Say husband, (sayd the sicke lover) if your browes griene not you, they shall neuer hurt me.

The 44. Iest.

A Country Hobbinoll, having seene the mad-folkes in Bedlam, fell so in loue with their trickes, that he swoze he could find in his heart, to liue in the Sommer-time amongst them, and demanded (of him that caried him thither to see them) how he might soonest be made to runne mad, if one had such a minde, easily sayd the other, so; doe but mary with a whoze, or else haue to doe with players, and thou shalt quickly runne madde.

The 45. Iest.

A Wench having a good face, a good body, and good clothes on, but of bad conditions, sitting one day in the two-penny room

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room of a play-house, & a number of yong Gentle men about her, against all whom she maintaine talke. One that sat over the stage sayd to his friend: doe you not thinke that yonder flesh will sticke anon, hauing so many eyes blowing vpon it. Wh (quoth his friend) I thinke it sticke already, for I neuer saw so many crows together, but there was some carion not far off.

The 46. test.

Looke (sayd one) is it not strange: yonder is a fellow that the last day went for a Lieutenant, and now he is a Vandoz: Alas sayd one that stood next him, Shoulders you know if they cannot get it by faire meanes, they will haue it out of the flesh.

The 47. test.

A Couple of Gentlemen talking of a common Bunk, one of them sayd the was a Recusant: Say before God, quoth the other, thats a lie, wheele take any thing.

The 48. test.

A Vniuersity man, cald one of the Constables of London. Dnyon, at which the Constable, (as if he had bin dyed into peeces) kept a coyle, and wondered, why he should call him an Dnyon, that was rather one of the best dishes, that stood vpon the table of Justice; Mary sayd the Scholler, I tell thee againe thou art an Dnyon, because thou hast a great head, but no wit in it.

The 49. test.

Two Tradesmen falling out, and vpbzayding one another with house-keeping, & miserable feeding of their seruants: Rates the one, I spend more mustard and vineger. in a yeare in my house, then thou dost beere in thine. Say quoth the other I beliene thee, for I alwaies tooke thee for a very saucie knaue.

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The 50. Iest.

A notable scolding Queene, railing hand to hand, with three men that were her neighbours, and beating them all three at it, because it was her owne weapon; her husband standing by, & taking part with neither. At last shee began to renile him, and told those that stuck about her, how her husband thought to haue euery rascall a top on her: And reason good, quoth one that stood by, what serue Iades for, but to be made hackneys?

The 51. Iest.

A Gentleman made all the friends he could, to the Captaine of the french Kings guard, that hee might bee one of them, but the Captaine told him, he was so hardly pressed vpon by sundry Noble men for their seruants, and fellowes, that he could not by any meanes doe him the pleasure: Oh sir (quoth the gentleman) sure you mistake. you are not (as I am told) so pressed vpon by so many Noble men, but rather with so many Nobles.

The 52. Iest.

A Water-bearer complaynd before a Justice, of his wifes misusing, and ouer-mistreating him: tis strange quoth the Justice, that you two should larre, for I am told, that you (Sirra) are neuer seene to goe into an Alehouse, but your wife is seene there too; you are neuer drunke, but she is drunke too: you neuer quarrell with your neighbours, but she quarrels too; I wonder that hauing qualities so alike, you should no better agree. So doe I and it please your Worship (sayd the Water-bearer) for my owne part, I could agree with her, if shee were worse, so she would be but better; I pray therefore let me haue her bound, either to her good behaviour, or else to the peace. Seeke but out a Scriuener (quoth the Justice) that can make
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such a bond, and thou shalt haue my furtherance.

The 53. Iest.

A Farmer of the country going to Law, for certaine Acres, about which he would neuer haue ventured his money, but that his Councell whetted him on, by telling him the matter was cleare on his side, and that all the Law in England could not take it from him; came locundly vp to the Terme and yet after much heauing & shouing was overthrowne Horse and foote, so that he had scarce money left to carry him home, whereupon meeting an acquaintance of his, and wondering (as hee said) that men of learning should so much overshoot themselves, in that wherein they are so perfect: oh (replied the other) the Sun shewes men their shadowes, but not their faces.

The 54 Iest.

A Apothecary that had a gallant creature to his wife, was wondred at, that shee (especially) and himselfe could be so rich in apparell, and so expensive in dyet, hauing no customers resorting to their shop for any phisicall stuffe, but onely a few Gentlemen that came to take pipes of the diuine smoake: whereupon some of his neighbors giuing vp their credit, that this geere could not last long, oh (said one of them) you are all deceiued in that man, it is not possible he should sinke, hee is so well held vp by the heade.

The 55 Iest.

A Young bryde (that had married a stale old bachelor) sat at the wedding dinner with a very sad and discontented looke, to thinke what a bad market she had bin at, but an Ancient merry gentlewoman sitting next to her, cheered her vp, in her ears thus. daughter quoth we neuer repent the bargaine thou hast this day made, for an old horse will bould out a long

A long iorney, as well as a nagge of foure yecre old: It may be so, (quoth the brise,) but as little skill as I haue in riding. I doubt whether he can hold out in some hye wayes that I could name.

The 56 Iest.

A impudent fellow meeting a ciuill gentlewoman vpon a narrow caluise, that she could not passe him without strutting (in courtesie) to giue way rudely brake out into this question Gentlewoman are not you a whore? She being nothing daunted at his blunt behauiour, but hauing more witte about her then he had ciuilitie, answered him thus, trust me Sir I am none now, no; euer was I any but once, and that was when your father being no better then a Chimney-sweeper, lay with me all night, whilst she whom you now cal mother kept vbores.

The 57. Iest.

A Company of theemes, brake one night into a countrie schools-masters house, but bes hearing them, neuer stirred out of his bed so; the matter, but cryed out alouds you mistake your marke my maisters, goe to the next house, thats a rich Farmers, I wonder you will looke time to seeke any thing heere by night, when I my selfe can finde nothing by day.

The 58. Iest.

Three waiting gentlewomen sitting by late one euening began to shrie one another, and to know what manner of Louers each other had: saies the first I loue one of our Seruingmen, and I (quoth the second) loue the Lute, nay (sayes the third) then I like my choice best, so; I loue my Ladys Gentleman. Ther: out vpon him, cryed one of the other, I had rather ten other men should lye with me night by night, then one gentleman vther.

The

The 59 Iest.

TWO friends hauing drunke much Tobacco as they late together in a chamber, (one of which was in loue with one of the Arpeny Suburb-Annets that lay in þe spittle in thezovich, and they both hauing spit much vpon the ground, one of them suddenly started vp, and with the end of a wand stood raking vp and downe in the spittle that lay before them, the other wondering at it, askt what he meant by doing so? mary quoth his friend, I am trying if I can finde what villanie thy samn's punch (whom thou dotest vpon) is committing in the spittle.

The 60. Iest.

A Pipe of kindled Tobacco being offered to one þe was noted to be a greedy taker of it, was by him refused, and being demanded, why he that loued it so well, should now leane it? he answered, for thre bad properties that he found in it, for saies hee, Tobacco makes any man a theefe (and vpon that hangs danger) a good fellow, (and that requires cost,) & a niggard (the name of which is hatefull :) It makes him a theefe for he will steale it from his father, a good fellow, for he will giue the smoake to a begger: a niggard, for he will not part with his box to an Emperour.

Nil in vitiis Soria defuit.

D :

The



The discoveries made by Cock Wat, the walking spirit of Newgate.



Ock Watt, as I am p^rinately knowne, & commonly cald by knaves, thaves and concatchers but moze properly named Cock Wary who gines warning to Court, citie and countr^y.

Have amongst you then, for the forefront of my name Cock, know I am so titled & discouered by it, in the place where I keep my twinkling residence, as distinctly as your likely horse by his white star in the forehead, your waton wench, by her black patch woone on the side of her browe your house of iniquitie, by little cakes and lesse cans, and your perfect tubblecap by his red nose And not vnproperly neither, so called Cock, for about that time when the last minnt takes his farewell of the ensuing day and that earely bird, the mornings herauld gines his wakefull summons to the darke clouds (under whose canopie, thenes, baudes, and strumpets doe their hatefull activities) to disport themselves from the desired day by whole cheerefulness, the honest laborer reioycingly, eates his bread got by the sweate of his browes, doe I like a candle at his halfe going out, in that skilnesse of howres, making my soveraignty amongst the monstrous thenes and murderers, and my pallace a prison, creeping by the wall, from side to side, and rowe to rowe, appeare.

So much for the character of my name Cock, now for my name, and nature of my name Watt, or Wary, thus: Know I am neuer sent to make my visitation and night, progreffe, to the terrifying of some, and comfort of other: that either in my Journey for me, or the next morning heare of me: but about three dayes before the sessions or assises, when comming into the prison, I finde for severall offences, plenty of offenders, some ly-

ing on hard flock-beds, but the most, sleeping on harder boards, some with coarse shutes and thinne coverings, the rest in shade of a bay barlet, or other conerture, beaug Irons, some high lawyers, some for walking on the pado, some hoysellers, some mits, some forgers, some stals, some jugglers, some Olimerers, some moxts, some liks, some decoyes, all cunning knaues and coloning queans, and of all these, what they are, and their severall course of limes, in their due places.

Where honest reader thou shalt perceiue, how easily thou shalt be deceived, how thy goods perloind, be ready to accuse, may even to Indite thy guiltlesse servants, be suspitious of thy Childzen, and onely by the diuelish sleights of many, who either with a satrer glosse of bzanery, honest shew of behauiour, or priuat villany: sorde like dzones vpon thy labours, and like like vipers in the common wealth.

But for my power and benefit of arrinall in your prison: knowe I most commonly appeare on the side of a wall, and from thence carry my selfe about in as swift a motion, as water glides from a spring, from bed to bed, and bewde to bewde, onely at the head of euery prisoner, I make a severall say: And as it were giuen mee by diuine power, I saye from each particular, the certaine continuance of his life to succede, and whether at the following sessions or Assises, they shall bee condemned to suffer their deserved and shamefull death or not.

At first I make my seate vpon the heade, where resting a while, I suddenly start from thence vp to the rose, and downe againe vpon the face, in as quick motion as lightning, when as if I had then receiued, by certaine Intelligence, whether the party I haue lothed on, shall bee executed or not, I thus to the Iudgement of any who are then waking make it euident.

For vpon my returne, the prisoner I haue made tryall of, shall shortly suffer, about his head and face, like a lampe nere his extingnishing, I make a small twinkling and goe out. But

Iests to make you Merie.

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it hath pleased **G D D**, his present Imprisonment hath bene layed vpon him, as a warning and mercifull correction, for his future amendment and to instruct him, (that as this certaine to vnhonell pleasure, is begot a companion repentance, so to vnlawfull actions, doth become this succession, a shamefull death. ~~on this~~ of the rest, that for that time are preserved, my light faileth not, but riseth, and descends from one to another: (whome I finde lying, as they haue liued, like swine) but deceyeth not one any but such onely whome shortly the Lawe shall condemne, and the speedy execution thereof, cut off.

While thus then, I continue my visitation, know that to thais to whome for that moment I am visible, the horror of thunder, mixt with the flashes of affrighting lightning, deadly to Beasts, terrible to Man, putting him in minde, that in such a minut, and by such messengers, the worlde shall determine and euery sinner shall bee cal'd to a strict account, wherein the best shall be found short of their reckoning, as I say, the remembrance of that power, begets not a moze earthquake in the bowels of the wretches, then doth my light (beeing no moze in show, then a starre by vs) increase in my beholder: for in what rancke of the leauen deadly sinnes so euer his conscience doth witnesse against him, that his prisoned life hath marcht in, seeing my light. for the same footsteps, extend vpon another, hee expects the like due rewards to descend vpon himselfe.

And in this terror of his, the plagues here to euery severall sinne, are as visible in the eyes of his soule, as they were then thrust in Hell, for the corruption of his body.

If hee haue bene as proud as a Player that feedes on the fruite of diuine poetry, (as swine on Acorns) that drop from the noble Oke of their mindes, and in the least winter of prosperitie, will not stick to make their eye, in that bosoms which of late retained them, in an house of amaine.

Iests to make you Merie.

ment like this, they shall with trembling remember (what in the height of their vaine glozy they presumptuously forgot) that though they are in their full of ranko, fatted vp like a Bore in his trunk that eats vp all is brought vnto him, yet are they all but swines flesh, that the damnest shew, will not eate a bit one, nay the Diuels themselves thought them the fittest rotes, vnder which to keepe their Court in, semper excipimus, and that a minuit will come perhaps in this moment, when they shall be like Tantalus in hell, to gape after their old fodder, but get none of it. or in such an houre as this, when either J or death shall visit them they shall euidently perceiue it was their pride which is the peruerter of all vertue, taught them to thinke themselves wise, but prou'd foole, instructed them to despise learning, scorne pouerty, mewe at desert, yea and that merit, which from starke Asses, which they naturally were, made their fit momusses worthy to be laughd at, yet remembers them withall in their best prosperitie, they are but like the flower sparagus, that growes out of euery mans dunge, and contemned of euery man.

If hee haue beene as enuious as a serpent, enemy to all mankind, and hath giuen as many picks, to the destruction of a mans life, & reputation, as a taylor, stiches in his clothes; for this long tongue and tooth'd maleuole, (that looke as desperately on the prosperitie of any, as your blurer on a yong beire, greedy to deuoure him) hath not the feathers of his birdboults glewed on onely with backbitings, calumnies, and slanderous reproaches, which onely contuminate the credyt, but he hath as many shayes besides, as Proteus, and like Signior don spaniardo, who in fight, apmeth all at the hart, or your notherne fencer, in playing his pyle, who stiches your marke fairer vpon his own breast yet sends his stoccado cleanly into your bosome, so will he vpon any occasion of reuengement shift himselfe into seuerall suites of Apparell, into a mans dish, his drinke, his nosegay, his any thing, he has an excellent wardop too, change of garmets, and not beholding either to his mercer, marchant, or taylor's Booke (as I hope most of our gallants are) for a penny. Wen-
up thou loquerunner of murder (as a great mans sumpter-horse
who

who makes them befoze that his Spatters comming after) blit
thy teeth. wash thine eyes that looke flaming like the ceaselesse
fire of the Glashouse, doe not vie to grate thy iawes, no; haue
the continuall hartburning at other mens happinesse, but by
misery which these seele, by beholding of me repent thy life, and
reforme thy condition, so; know it seemes to them in the instāt,
they are to;ne by Diuels in the shapes of dogs, in that blacke
read kingdome, so; being so dogged to mankind, twirt whom
and them there was a christian affinity here vpon earth.

If he haue bene as lecherous as a mountains goate, and so
keepe his effeminacy in repaire, and make his desires perpetu-
all, hath bene at cost to maintaine his monethly bathes, fomen-
tations, electuaries, and to cheris his loynes in high art, hath
had his Colleses of dissolved pearle, and byssid amber, erin-
goes, cocksparrows, byssines of larks, lambstones all the earths
chiefest bysses, to replenish his pleasures, and pomper vp his
ranchnesse in this minot. by me his messenger, hee is remem-
bred. all is vanity: And begins to reckon with himselfe, how
miserable man is, whose body is p;ferred from the plenty and
cheefest of the land, and by the delicatest floze of the sea, yet thus
nourisht and nussed vp, not as all other creatures. o; so; man
nobler person, but so; woymes, the very bysses and offall of the
earth. and as he hath liued licentiously like a goate, so his skin
bathed, rubb, kerket nay perhaps painted so; that purpose, shall
then like a goate be fard not to make sp;nce spanish leather, fit
so; wanton Ladies shooes, but to make glones so; friends, (like
Salamanders skins) able to resist the heate of the low country:
so; though they are farre from the Sunne, they alwaies line in
the fire, and the best office their hides can be put to, is to make
pumps so; Proserpin, graund Pluto King of Lecyfrs Concu-
bine.

And as of these, so inues to all the rest, such as by drunken-
nesse, haue made their bodys like by; fats, and their faces like
a bysses post of seuerall colours. o; swearers, whose oaths fly
out at their mouths, like smoke out of a chimney, that defiles
all the way it passes, o; lyers, and such commonly are theynes: so;

lying and stealing, or as inseperable companions, in anfull society, as a theefe and a receiuer, and indade all sinners of what condition so euer, are at the sight of me, struck with a suddaine and violent remorse, reckon vpon their liues, and make themselves Iudges of themselves in these offences, wherein their conscience giues testimonie against them, that they are guilty, and in this present horror, they seeme in minde to take the vpright Iustice and punishment which they know, long before this they haue deserved.

Well, hauing brought these that behold me into this ague, you walking spirit will loose them in their fit, and returne to the rest, whom we left sleeping: ouely by the way, I could wish that I had that sufferance in the Citie, that I progresse once a moneth, about the Coale, I then durst undertake, you should loose heare of more charity, and fewer cuckolds, and lesse houses, more hospitality, not so many promises, but more payment, not so many shales rich, and so many wise Beggars, nothing should be amisse, all should be commended, or your Cock Wach would walke the sinfull round like a Sentinell, and the sinners should sweete so.

But to them whom I left sleeping, not like the rest of good men, wherein they find comfortable recreation after their carefull labours, but like the sleepes of villayns: For somnia bonorum meliora quam malorum. So I finde these not in sound sleepes, but distressed sleepers, troubled dreames, visited with fairings, groanes and passions, and afflicted in minde, as they are persecuted in bodie, one that went drunke to bed ouer night, hee reles in his sleepe, and sweares to begin at the last halfe pot, where he left in the morning, others that haue borne* toyls, all or the most part of their time, and thyned well in the profession, and now lately drawne into some other action, as they call it, as to breake a house, or to lift a cup from a Winteners red barre, to be inlighted so, if at the black barre in the old bayly, he curses his education, complaines of the destinyes, malignes his starres, and concludes thus, what a villon was I, to leaue my old trade, meaning picking of pockets, to blurpe and steale into an other mans

quasi.
pick pockets

mans myſterie, namely houſe-breaking, or what other waies; I heretofore haue lined well by mine owne, and that which I was brought vp in, drawne forty or fifty pound for mee and my punch, in one tearme, out of a rum cones bung, (ſo called in their canting ble of ſpeech) (and as much as to ſay in ours, a rich chaffes purle) and now after in my many escapes, common hale, the helpe to many a venterous theefe, a plague of all I'll lucks, I muſt ride Cro wee as much as to ſay, behanged for a trifle, & in the bitterneſſe of his paſſion, breakes out thus, may all they take another mans trade vpon them, neuer ſpeede better.

Here is to be noted, he is not worthy of the name of a chaffes purle, among theeues, which is without a morr, or punck.

Where you muſt vnderſtand every man keeps his own trade, among theeues as orderly, as they of the tiuolus companies, as he that is a bintner, is a bintner and no more, ſo he that is a pick-pocket, is a pickpocket and no more: and ſo of the reſt, yet in the end, closes vp his elegie, beeing ſung in his dreame, with this reſolution, well I haue ſeene the worſt, tis but halfe an howres hanging, I will ſaue mee halfe a yeres drinking, twoe turnes, the knot vnder the eare, and a wry mouth will doe it, let me ſweete hart, (ſpeaking by his mozt) haue a white ſherte tyed about mee, and my black wrought Cap on my head, my ſolegay in my hand, tis but the way, which many a good fellow has gone befoze, and welcome death, when ſhe perhaps, then preſent with him, as if their ſoules did ſympathize in one, and ſweres dialogue wiſe to him, making vp her proteſtations with othes enow, no doubt of it, his will ſhe will ſee perſormed, may for his ſake, ſhe will neuer loue none of his profeſſion more neuer come by netigate ſtaires, nay for ever will be a ſtranger to the Ile of man, in remembrance of him.

Well, ſuppoſe the dreames paſt, our dreamer awakes, and caried in a cart to haue a corner of Doctor Stories cap, whē ſhe once ſeing him gone, makes no doubt but he has bozned a noole to him, will hold him ſaſt enough from coming back, & ſtraight ſhe forgets her promiſes, neuer to haue more friends, nay ten to one, ne ver takes care to ſee him buried, & hath brought himſelfe

to the galleys for her, but rather studies, where and how, she may get money to bee drunk with a new loue, and in fresh flo cups, make vp a new combination between the, thus like water men, that shift their fares, from one landing place to waite for another, so doe these moztis euery sessions shift their lutoys, they dispatch one at Newgate staires, & a Noble to a groate, they take vp another betwixt that and Liburne.

Of moztis, or
receiuers of
their kins
goods.

Yet shall it not be Impertinent, that I Cock Watt, your new Discoverer, make euident, what vse these kinds of people draw from these the creatures, both abroad and in prison. First know, that your thames travelling mozt, is partly a setter of robberies, partly a thiefe her selfe, but alwaies a receiuer of whatsoeuer is stolne and brought vnto her: for which felonies, if him whom she calls her husband, chance to be apprehended, she trots in his businesse, labours his aduersarie to be good to him, & suffer him to be bayld out, you shall want no teares, no kneelinges, no intercessions, no perswasions, that it is the first fact that euer the poore man her bedfellow fell into, and will you sake his bloud, that he was neuer in prison before, and will you bee his undoing. when if you but search the recozd at Newgate, you shall finde him to haue payd his garnish twentie times at least, but if it pzooue that at her Impoortunity you are mooued, and in pittie of her, spare her mates life.

Take this from me, it shall happen to you, as to an honest Iuroz of this City not long since, who seeing a comely proper yong man stand indighted for a purse, and by his verdit giuen against him, was to be hanged, in pity of his present youth, and hope of better grace to come, being at that time sozeman of the Jury, so laboured with his assisants, that for that fact hee was acquitted, who in recompere presently vpon his discharge, paying his fees, came to the place where this Iuroz was, and pickt his pocket, then if poore Cock may not pzenaile to you to spare none of them, learne this of Horras. Quo semel est Imbuta recens seruabit odorem Testa diu.

A mucky vessel will neuer bee made sticke, and our english
prouerbs

Letts to make you Meric.

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proverbe is as true as old, save a theefe from the gallows, & heele hang you if hee can, and though these parties themselves will in person no moze steale from you, yet imboldned by your pittie they will be instruments, to intice others to worke you hurt, otherwise if shee findes you not moved at her Crocodiles teares, but according as justice in y^e case has provided will prosecute against him, then saie she to rayling against you, abuses your wife bannes your children curses your proceedings, and if she have a childe her selfe, byrings it and sayes at your doore shee will leaue it, for you or the parish to bring up, if by your meanes her husb and perissheth, thinking thus to overcome you with impudence, if shee could not doe by perswasion, they that have had any trading know this to be true, then w^{ch} Cock leaues euery man to his owne discretion, and will now tell how these shee beasts behaue themselves abroade.

In the day time two of them neuer lesse, often moze, walke vp and downe streets together with their handbaskets in their hands, so neate and decent in attire, that suspition it selfe cannot rease on them for other, then people of honest conuersation when vigilantly as they passe along, they cast their eyes about, to obserue where, they can finde a shop furnished, but with one to giue attendance on customers, be it maister, mistresse, or man, so but one they respect not, which taken note of, into that shop of what trade soener they will enter, for these will play small game before they will sit out, many their chiefe venture is eyther with Percers, Goldsmiths, Linnen drapers, haberdashers and such like (now a simple man would thinke these should bee credible people that thus lone to deale with the best.) at first they demand for this, or that sort of wares, as rings, taffety, cambricks, hats, gloves, garters, or what soener the shoppe keepes trade of, much they desire to see but are contented with none, yet still requesteth you to turne about and reach her this thing or that thing, all which trouble is to no moze purpose, but that whiles your face is away from them, they may take advantage to slip somewhat a way from you, which at that instantes she that is next you failes not to effect, and closely conuayes it

to her that stands of fit purpose a pretty way off, thus having the pay they sh^d for, she modestly dislikes your wares, says she is so; shee has troubled you, she will now make bold to see further, and if she cannot speed her selfe better, she will returne to you againe, and whilst she is using this complement, shee withall opens her basket, shakes and begins to gather up her clothes, and you seeing no occasion of mistrust, the one, laying all meanes to free suspicion opens to you, and the other standing aloofe and not coming neere your wares, kindly bids them welcome & so part, you to the making up of your wares againe (and ten to one for that instant misse nothing) and they to make away that purchase, and by the like to provide for more.

Thus is many an honest Cityzen robbd, ten, nay perhaps, twentie times, by the wilkes of this condition, and of long time mistrust nothing, but coming to cast up his shop, findes his goods gone, and no account to be made of them. he suspects his wife, distrusts his children, accuses his servants, when these make pay of your endeours, and consume your substance in as wild or wilder manner then they get it.

Another instruction learne, to avoid these dangers by, at the coming in of two in this fashion, into your shop, though by your vigilance both in laying out & making up of your wares, you are certaine there is nothing lost, yet of her that stands aloofe have this foresight, that nothing lye within her reach, for while shee perceives your eye to be diligent on her you are serving, her eye is not idle to observe what lyes at randome abroad, for that they have bene hole bolts of Hollā, peeces of Taffety, or Sattane probatum est, that many an honest man having had a care of y^e one, have bene by the other whom they mistrusted not in the meane time deceiued, for sometimes, they will not come in as of one acquaintance, but when she perceives you busied with the other, and calls hard for such wares which she knowes you, have, whē you are loth to loose a customer, intreat her but to stay a little & you will attend her straight, she saies she will y^e other whō you are serving there prolonges the time, and shee walking a-
bout

Tests to make you Merie:

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about till shee has plaid her paise, in fit opportunity takes her leave and saies shee will come againe when you are at moze leysure, and so at one time gines you the list and the slip, straight retires home to her Copelmates, who neuer goe abroad vnles sometimes to be drunke but like like stoles, who in the day are wondred at and selome seene but by night, when your goods are deuiled, and you the honour for your neglect iested at.

But if, as it is selome they misse of their purpose, yet come they not home, without meanes to set some other paise a foot, as by noting your dozes, selles, windowes, casements, whether your seruants lye in your shop, and how they finde all things easly for entrance, or defense, against a burglary, & next night, when, with two or thre men and a dog, the purposed act, as shall be after reuealed in what manner is vndertake.

These that thus steale, for there be of them, both men and women, are among them selues called running lifts, of which, there are that steale in another maner, and thus it is. If they perceine a Nobleman or gentlemans doze open, they will straight without asking paise in, and so far bp, even to the fairest lodgings where if by chance they are met by any, and resisted with this question, who would you speake withall, they haue either of these two answers, for their reply, I say you is not this such a Gentlemans house, who dwelleth within a doze or two of, or is not such a gentleman within, whose lodging they know it is, & they themselves haue watcht his going out, but if as it often happeneth, they bee intercepted by none, what plate, apparell any thing of worth happens in their way. it is ashy to their net: for in things that are trifles, these will not venter, as I will now tell you of a trick that happened to a gentleman of worth, nere Holborne, by one of this profession, and the shee these yet lining, the moze is the pitie.

This gentlewomans maide being bp earely in the morning, ^{if of lifts.} it was her chaunce to come out at the Arret doze, to go into the sel-
loze to fetch coles or some other necessaries, she had presently to
use, in this, she list perceiuing, slept in & in an instant bp toward

the chambers (having provided it for the purpose, on her feet,
 a paire of cloth shoes with pump soles, so far was she climbe
 till shee was at the chamber dooze where the gentleman & his
 wife lay, as she suspected a sleep, for it was in the morning early,
 the maide by this time was come out of the kelloz, & going for
 worke with her busines in the Kitchin misdoubted nothing:
 while shee listning at the chamber dooze if shee could heare all
 quiet, in the end went in, but it was the gentlemans chance
 at this time to be awake, and perceiuing betweene two curtens
 the glance of a woman to passe by, closed his eyes of purpose &
 lay breathing as if he had slept soundly to note the euent, when
 shee thinking all safe opened a presse dooze that stood in the
 roome, & in which was the whole encrease of the gentlemans
 plate, and began to gather it out as charily, and with as much
 regard for buring as it had bin her owne, first she filled this
 pocket, then y^e, then tother, took vp this upper cote then a second,
 then a third, euen to her very smoke, which the gentleman per-
 ceiuing he thought like Bankes his horse, or the Baboones, or
 captaine Pold with his motion, shee would haue shewne him
 some strange & monstrous sight for his aluer & guilt before she
 had left him, at last hauing filled some eight or ten deep pockets, too
 many for an honest body to beare, made the gentleman thinke
 shee had made them a purpose to carry his plate in, downe went
 all her cotes as the seuerall corners of them, and hauing now
 left no more in the cubbozd, but one faire bason and swer
 out came that too, & being as charitably minded towards that
 as the rest, because it should not lie abroad and take cold, shee
 gaue it houseroome in her apron, which he that ought it percie-
 uing, said smilingly to himselfe, I see now that theeues haue no
 conscience, well shee began to trusse vp her selfe, hoping for
 a boone voyage, & like a theefe as shee came by, to steale out of the
 chamber, mary better ballast by three or foure hundred pound
 then at her coming to that rooe, when the gentleman stepping
 out of his bed, caught her by the arme and cried halfe Chaze in
 faith, for in this commodity I haue playd a part and deserued
 it well, shankes bee to the Diuill, shee had scarce so much
 grace

yet as to blush at it, but in bꝛiefe, he cald for his neighbors, upon
whole comming, his goods being found about her, she was ca-
ried befoꝛe a Justice, and from thence to pꝛison, but whether
of the gentlemans mercy, oꝛ what composition, I know not,
(but money can do much) in thꝛee oꝛ foure daies, she outrun the
keepers, and was quit of her trouble, which makes poꝛe Cock
Watt to complaine, that inchbold theues should haue better
luck then honest men, and foꝛ that I know, let them haue ne-
uer so much mercie shewed them, they are still like dogs, Redire
ad vomitum, what though one Wꝛoker, who had his beginning
from an inch of this pꝛofession, is now become an honest man,
becausꝛ he is rich, and a freetholder, he yet must be no pꝛesident
foꝛ the rest, foꝛ might I haue bene her Judge, shee should haue
had her due, and bank Derrickes vance in a hempen halter. I
my selfe haue lined in the same state, when I was a creature
on earth, wherein they remaine, and I know, their custome is
vilde, and life so abhorred, that I had rather chuse with those,
whom Circes transfoꝛmed, to liue in the nature of bruite beasts,
then to reassume my antient habite, and liue like them.

Another sort of these shee moꝛts, oꝛ monsters, I must Anato- of Glimerers,
mise vnto you, who though their nature of stealing be alike, their
maner of attemping is different, yet their purpose one, & they are
led Glimerers. Our Glimerer, shee vs in the moꝛning betwene
5 oꝛ 6 of the clock, dꝛest in her night attire her bodie and coates
scarce laced together, her apꝛon defiledly put on, & with a black
bꝛāo in her hāo, of the colour of her owne soule, which she caries
vnder her apꝛon, as if to kinde that, were her purposd busines,
about Cræte she goes, taking the like opportunity with the foꝛ-
mer, to goe into any house where she finds the dooze open nay
pꝛesumes further: If it be in the darkest winter moꝛnings, to
knock foꝛ admittance, if she but perceiue a light: when the mayd
oꝛ man seruant, but most commonly ꝑ mayd, comming to know
her arrand, she desires to haue leaue to kinde her stick, which
vsuall curtesie being granted, in she goes into the kitchen, and
while her stick lies in the fire, as if she were a seruant: newly
come to some Gentleman oꝛ Citiz en thereabouts (whome shee
is

is perfect to nominate) she begins with that goships chat, which
 is familiar and in vse amongst tatling houswives, which is to
 discover the humors, and manners of their maisters & mistresses,
 their forme of gouernment in their house, how they agree, or
 disagree, one with another, & in what order they must rub their
 roomes, wash, dress meate, reckoning vp all the forme of her
 huswiferie, to keepe her mistres in quiet, (when as she seldome
 meets it otherwile) finding the other as ready to enquire and
 listen after nouelties, as she to offer, she begins to commend her
 cleannes, and defence in keeping that house in so good order,
 praises the pillores of the building, the necessary contriuing of it,
 and offers her selfe to walke further into the next parlor, to haue
 more cause to speake more in her commendation, when this
 mistrustles soule, proud to heare her selfe praised, & suspitious
 that she comes for any other end but to kindle her sticke, keeps
 waitfull eye ouer her, but giues way to her presumption, which
 leane giuen she has dispatch that she came for in a twinkling,
 and neuer comes back empty handed, takes vp her sticke, giues
 some kinde farewell at parting, as I hope we shall meet at the
 Backehouse, or Market & be merry, or if you receiue on Walme
 Sunday next, I would be glad to haue your company, & so with
 her new purchase departs, the maide she folloves her busines,
 and not long after, riseth her maister and mistres, when shortly
 whatsoeuer the vulture had before made gripe of, is mist, the
 maide accused for it, and the maister and mistres angring a-
 gainst her, they saw themselves their goods but late last night
 when they went to bed, and of her they must know what is be-
 come of them, & accused wretch she weepes, protests she knowes
 not, & vouches to her knowledge, nay she is certaine there came
 none in but such a gentlewomans maide, rehearsing her name,
 whose seruant she had named her selfe to be to kindle a brande,
 then whiles the maister frets and is suspitious that his maide
 is a theefe, the seruant is as selous & the maister or mistres haue
 borne theues to themselves, & conuaid away their goods, with
 intent to defraud her of her wages, in the end the gentlewomans
 house before named is enquired after, and the seruant examined,
 and

and not found to haue beene in the others house, as the accused had inferd, the suspition growes moze strong: for the maister knowes his goods to be lost, findes his servant whom he suspects to faile in her answer, & doubting no such fraudulent practise, as these dyones haue inuented, imprison his maide, may sometimes as in case of a felon, proceeds in ordinary tryall against her, that were not our graue bench of Senators, Pteleous, & Patrons of this comon wealth, carefull to distinguish betwixt partie and partie, the Lambe might oftentimes perishe for the wolues rauenings. So this I hope then shall be sufficient for maisters to giue admonishment to their seruants to be warie ouer them that come to kinde sparkes.

By your leaue yet, and let your new discouery wade a little further, and giue warning to Merchants wiues and women of the best sort, to learne how to p̄uent this fresh practise inuented to deceiue them.

There is a new company arising, though not yet halfe so many in maner, as y^e fellowship of the Dyeters, & thus call themselves Reachers, they walke together Male and Female, and keepe house together like man and wife, they will haue you a house to dwell at about Endfield, Brainford, or any place within 6. 7. or 8. miles of London, but withall keepe a private lodging for them selues to retire vnto, at one Wyckers house or another in the suburbs, b̄p̄ the market daies these two come to towne. She attired like a comely country woman, in cleanly white linnē with a musler on her face, and in russet clothes outward signes of the countries honest simplicitie, & in her maund or basket which she beares on her arme, lapt in a pure white cloth, some fine tid pig, fat goose, yong kid, or hunch of venison, indeed any provision but of the daintiest, which eyther she can buy for her money, or moze probably her mate may steale from any, in this neat maner lapt vp, the ware it selfe of the delicatest, able to entice any eye to haue a desire to buy of her, comes she to make her markets, when lingring in the towne, at one place of receiue or other, as they want no shelter till toward y^e breaking vp of the market, which is much about y^e houre when exchange time is held for the meeting of our merchants, when thus coiciding, as very profitable it is, that at

that time our worthiest citizens are from home, they goe into Milk-street, Bread-street, Lime-street, S. mary Axe, or the most privatest places where they kept their residence to make their venture, when she knocks at the doore, and demands of the servant that comes whether her worshipfull good mistresse bee within, and whether it will be her pleasure, to buy of her, her goose, pig, kid, or whatsoever, when shewing it to the servant, (and she can do no other but commend it,) she prayes her to expresse the purity of it to her mistres, that she may bargain for it: For in truth sister, quoth she, we poore country folkes, dare not proffer any thing so dainty as this to the open view of the market, lest any one of spight, informe either the King, or my Lords Mayors officers thereof, and so our goods shall be taken from vs, we having not halfe the value returned vs for recompence.

With this reasonable and honest seeming prevention, the maide knowing her mistres to be of the minde of all our Citizens gallant wives, loth to let any dainties, or good thing go by from their owne tails, which they either have desire unto, or may have for money, though they pay never so deere & their husbands prove bankrupts for it, wils her to come stand within the doore, which she indeede requests, lest any Catch-pole or busy knave should se her, and so her commodity be forfeited, being as it is held unlawfull, the sale to be offered not at the market, well the maide goes up to informe her mistres, (and withal takes the dainties along with her. whom she finds in her chamber, perhaps scarce ready, for tis growne a fashion amongst them to eat their breakfasts in their beds and not to be ready till halfe an houre after noone, about which time, their husbands are to returne from the Burse and they make it their dinner time, now while the mayde is above, flattering her mistres (as flattery is a part of their worke, for why they have their wages, with the delicacie of the offer and the cleanliness of the country woman, which brought it to be sold, the for beneath leers about what pay she can espy, to carry home to her den, whē finding hole piles of broad clothes, Cearles, or such like
com-

Iests to make you Merie.

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commodities, too burthen some for any one to suspect a lone woman could defraud you of the straight beckens ouer her companion, who stands ready at an inch, & being a quicke good sturdy knave, with a hand shifts a way one of them. This is no surmise, there is merchants in this towne, by the losse of commodities & I thinke can witnesse it well, by this time the gentlewoman has like that which was brought her, calls for, and commends the country womans cleanlinesse, bargaines with her at her owne rate, and requests shee may see her chap-woman on the like occasion, by this also has my porter, though without the badge of the porters Hall, brought his burthen to the Brokers house, where being once put in: tis an abisse to bottomlesse for any search to reach out againe. & your cloth is good ware, it may be cut out into seuerall garments, by this also my marchants come home, where soone taking note of his losse, it makes his wines markets eate not half so sauerly as they would haue done, yet in the end lends for a cup of sack, and comforts himselfe with this, that I in his behalfe, would admonish the world, *Fœlix quem faciunt aliena pericula cautum.*

And this much for my order of iests, which I hope shall be a caueat sufficient for courtiers, to haue a care of their chambers, gentlemen their lodgings, citizens their shops, chapmen to haue an eye at their faire, and by diligence, defend that hereafter which by these meanes heretofore hath bene their hinderance.

Now to our Foyles, alias, pickpocket, alias, cutpurse, he has as many alias as a good gentleman of Wales, and indeede is as good a benefactor to the alehouse hee consists of an army of three strong, namely, foyles and snaps, his common wealth to live in, or ground to encamp in, is the antient great grand father Bowles, & all other little churches his children, besides parish garden, or rather (places of more benefit) publick, & by your leaue priuat play houses, Westminster hall is his good soyle, the dark entry going to the Sir clarks office, in chancery lane his in the tearme time his deere and speciall good friend, London bridge his bountifull benefactor, all markets are his purueyors, and carefully provide for him all faires his diligent fac-

Of Foyles.

toys, that bring him in his provision in abundance, all pockets his exchequer, that are neuer shut against him, progresses his true paymasters, though they pay seldome-in the Court or cockpit, though the King himselfe be there, he dare encounter, he acknowledges no person, nor no place exempt with him, only the Exchange excepted, for saies he, where merchants meete, is no meeting for vs, If they once take vs, we are sure to go to the old turn, for they are men deale all with great store of money, & very little mercy, the times when his skirmishes are hottest, is the time when they run attilt, is the day the Lord Mayor takes his oath, a new play, or when some great cause is heard at the Star Chamber, now for the person himselfe that dur pick the pocket, and his ministers about him that give furtherance to the action.

Know at a new play, he is alwaies about the playhouse doore, watches out of which side you draw your purse, & then guessing whether the lincage be worth the ventring, for that serves his turne, if hee see you buying of ware at any stall or shop, hee observes when you pay for it, on which side you put your purse, and that serves him likewise, If in a throng he thus comes to knowledge whether your pocket be worth the sacking or no, If you be a man that once appeare likely to him, hee gathers inst behind, or on the side of you, and there clapping his hand easily on the place where the bottome of your pockets are, poyles them with all, and by the waight getteth how well they are ballast, if he be a Countryman that comes from far to the tearme, or one that dwels not farre from London, or servingman, such either to be-
 Bow money, if he walke without a cloake, as for the most part they will, two of them meete him at a corner, and only with streaking of their hands on his hole, gesse whether this bayle be worth the nibling at, nay perhaps at the first encounter, gaue it the draught, but this happens not alwaies the generall. When thus.

When they haue once agreed, which is the Coue they will fasten on, if it be in a throng, or gasing after any object to delight you, the stall he gets besoze you, and there he rings himselfe too &

Tests to make you Merie:

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fro, while the foyll dooing as much behind. they both disquiet you, & the one picks your pocket. If they follow you in the street, and once know where the bung and the bit is, as much as to say, your purse and the money, out goes your stall before likewise, when coming at a corner, by which you must passe, being direct before you, stoopes of the sudden, as if to take by something, when the other as nere behind you, as if hee were to passe by in hast, Jusses you vppon tother, and withall drawes your purse: Thus rather then sayle, will he follow you, and offer vpon you twice or thrice, if he misse at the first of his purpose al this while, now you shall see like a scout, he comes after a loose, watching, If any stranger were suspitious of you in the insle, or the man himselfe, which if he finds and you before haue sped then comes he apace after you, and ere the man in that space, has time to misse his purse, and come after you, he glides by the foyll, with these wordes, kinchen the coue toures, which is as much as, fellow the man smokes or suspects you, when the foyll slips the purse either to him or the stall, & feares not to be searcht, nay vpon the challenge will so out-face the party: and stand vpon his credyt, being sure there is nothing to be found about him, and the rest gone: that the honest man is rather ready to aske him mercy then accuse him: and now I will tell you a pretty tale of a foyll, whose vnpudent euent happened at Charing Crosse, not long since.

There lived a foyll in this Towne, whose gettings by the trade was so good, that he kept his punch, though he called her his wife: in none worse ware, then Laffeties and Melnet of the best, and himselfe more like a rich knight, then a quanty Cut-purse: and indeed the comliness of his feature and faire behaviour, was so answerable to the bzaury of his apparels, that it procured him access into the worthiest places, nay oftentimes made him esteemed as a companion with the best. this fellow seeing a good luffy servingman, & one hopefull to haue some purchase in his pocket would serue his turne, if he could get it, kept to him, and as he wist gaue him a little Jussle: and withall, twicht 3 & out of his pocket, the servingman, who but new be-

foze had bought a peny worth of pates, and upon this thrust, clapping his hand to his side and mist his purse. Next after the foyst, and rounded him, what do you here gentleman? (foz by his apparell he appeared no lesse) though I put by your iustle, I wold bee loath to haue you put by my purse, there is thre pound in it, come let me haue it againe and no moze words out, the pickpurse upon this challenge began to reuile the honest fellow, calling him rogue, slane, knaue, and I know not what, to charge a Gentleman, of my fashion with thy purse, as they were at these words, being spoke against a great faire House, where some great personage dwelt, comes me a Coach whirring on the suddaine, and there made a stand, to discharge his burthen at that lodging, when as the Lady dismounted, the foyst being exceeding gallant, took occasion by the hand, next to her, caught her by the arme, and lead her in, leauing the fellow in a mule, whether he were awake, and might ascertaine himselfe, he had lost his money or no.

The foyst by this time had brought in the Lady, where after some curtisie discharged, next to her, kiss her and departed, leauing the gentlewoman in as strange wonder who it should bee had done her that present seruice, and blaming her memory if she should forget in what place was begun their acquaintance. (when indeede her eyes and his did neuer parle together before) yet getting by his habite, he could be a man worthy of no lesse then that kindnesse, a kisse which she had receiued, he pass it ouer.

By this time the foyst was come back to the seruingman, & roundly began to tell him, that now he had brought in his honorable Aunt, he should know he had done him wrong, to charge him with his purse, he would fight with him, & fellow seeing himselfe thus outface out of himselfe, and holding it his best to proceede no further, replied, If he had done him wrong, for he was sozry sort, but howsoeuer hee was sure thre pound he had when hee iustled him, and hee was as sure twas hee iustled him, and withall answered the foyst, I am as sure thou presumptuously didst challenge me for it, and I am sure I will fight with thee.

The

Iests to make you Meric.

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The fellow halfe angered for the losse of his money, entertained this offer: and into Tuttle fields they went where they had not changed past halfe a dosen thyusts, but the soryt had hurt him in the arme, and so they gaue ouer, but ere they parted, the soryt puts his hand into his pocket, told out twenty shillings of his money, and speaking to the fellow, sayd that hee should see hee would proue himselfe a Gentleman, since he had hurt him, there was so much for him, & so lent him to the Chirurgions, the servingman praysing his resolution and minde of a Gentleman, they so parted, the servingman with thanks, and the soryt with this Impudent boist.

If this were not a trick to shift a foole.

A more knaue learne mee, and Ile go to schoole.

But now to the manner of the soryting of a pocket, the sharing of the money, and how honest men may auoide them. First know your pocket is drawne bp, that he may the easier come by your purse with two fingers, onely the soze-finger and the middle, and with that soze, he catches hold not of the lining, nor on the side next your skin, but the other: for if hee should fasten on that next your thigh, he were in danger you would feele him sooner then on the other. When hauing drawne your pocket bp, till he can reach your purse, it is then gon with the least twitch nay by this meanes of drawing, If your money be lose, they will turne you the case cleane out, and the bit, into their hands, now for the sharing of this bit, as they call it, your Stall is equall part with your soryt, if the soryt be none, which is shift some aside, ere they come to sharing, but your snap has his wages at their discretion.

For the manner to auoide them, though their cunning be great, it is very easie, which is, if euer you take any, to hang them, and let not this composition preuaile with you, for that meane of compounding with the aduersarie, hath bene like an other to scollers in this myserie of cutting of purses, emboloned many schollers, and increast their number, and also to bee go-

gcuerned by these instructions,

If being in a Crowd you perceiue a busy knaue, or cunning whoze. (soz we haue thes foyls as well as he) labouring and thynking about you. how gallant so euer they be in apparrell) and the male haue alwaies one side of his cloke cast ouer his shoulde, soz thats the perfect badge to know a pick-pocket in a thong by, seme either not at all to regarde him, till you take him in the trap, or else loke once or twice eagerly vpon him, then loke away, and then laere at him, keeping your hands downe on the side of your pockets, when presently he will perceiue himselfe to be smoked, or at least, in his guilty conscience suspect himselfe, and so shew from you. from whence you may take note of him soz one of the trade, and soz that time are rid of a knaues company.

If going thzough the stræte, or standing at some Corner, your purse be attempted with a instell, vpon the touch, haue this in remembzance straight to searh, if you misse nothing, when, if you finde your purse wanting, spare not to appzehend him that tolled you, and him that stood next befoze you, when though they will appeare to you to haue no acquaintance, you shall finde them a kinne in conuersation, when they come to Retrogate.

Now if he haue mist his hold, and the snap that God Centinell or comes after, perczines you vppon the shoue together, to your pocket to seke soz your money, then hastens he after you with his old lesson, kinchen the coue towres you, which is so insufficient a warning he will not angle with you after.

Among the pzoession of thzauing, this kinde is held the basest, as your lawyer, whole course is so sufficiently knowne. I shall neede to speake of, is held the worthest, yet among themselves they reckon it the best, boling thus of it, we are not troubles in our venter, with luggage, as your millure quasi Breakehouse. and others are, which is dangerous to put away: But wee as soone as wee haue done our worke, we haue our money.

Thus hoping that this instruction will in Citie and coun-
try

try, sayres, and meetings, to keepe honest mens money in their purses, and pickpockets, poore Cock VVatt will onely discover a word or two of the mill, quasi breakhouse, and so go to bed, you will or breakhouse, to whome your broker is your onely upholder, and merchant to transport his commodities, whereas all other thames workes in the day, bee onely sleepes in the day and toyles in the night, there is of these as of Foyles and Lifts, both men and women, whose Instruments are either little Iron hookes, which are called picklocks, and they that use the termed Junglers, or a strong Iron barre made sharpe at one end, and they which trade with that, are called Spils, withall a boy to creepe in at a crushard or small hole, which they make or finde.

The time that they go forth, is about one or two a Clock in the morning, at which houre commonly the watches are discharged. They lightly set forth foure in number, of which the Boy is one, when if they haue in the day taken note of any casement, without a speere going vp in the middle, if there be either signe-post, or pent-house about, thither doe they vppen their hands and shoulders lift vp the Boy, who being brought vp for the purpose, presently creeps in, then two of them beneath go to stand Centinell at each end of the street, and the thirde waites to receiue whatsoeuer the Boy shall throw out.

If they breake a sello, or a shop window, they doe the like, but it alwaies follows not, that these burglaries haue a Boy: for sometimes they are all men, but then are they associated with an excellent iugler, a fellow that will pick you open a lock, as soone as a man will blow his nose, he has the power of Gun-powder, he will blow them open, but not with halfe so much noyse. This fellow opens the doze, if not bolted on the inside, & makes easie entrance, who where euer they finde to the fullest burthen, they take away, the distribution whereof, this is some parte to the punch, and the rest to the Broker.

Now if this robbery shall extend to forty, fifty, or a hundred pound, if none of it be money, but apparrell or commodities

44 Iests to make you Merie.

He is so Imbolded away in the suddaine, so altered, so transpoz-
ted from one to another, that if the loser take not his theues,
within two or thre daies, he shall find his goods bought & sold,
metamorphosed into so manie severall shapes, and sold for so little
at the first, this little but their lines will bee his recompence, A
plague of these Brokers, privat buyers, private receivers, saies
Cock Watt, they have given me cause in time past to curse them
my selfe, & my hart will not let me be sozry for them. They make
me theirs in England, then your owers, and Schullers bus land
men upon the Thames, Your Juglers exercise besides, this is
picking open the locks, as partakers and chesse them, but those
that keepe Innes, & have their riches in one rōme have a cut of
them. for your other sort of mills I have set downe the Chara-
cter ont, advise all men whose shops & houses are not together,
to let a servant lie there: for they stand dangerous, such as have
low windowes, as though a floze high without a spare, in the
midd to all them, & if there be a paint-house vnder any window,
to leane nothing they respect there ouer night, least they say they
had it in the morning. And thus wishing the happinesse of ho-
nest men, and the end of theues. Cock Watt bids you. Good
night.

The



The miserie of a Prison, and a Prisoner.



This Ghost (that haunts no places but houses of Calamitie) being weary of beholding so much villany, though not weary in discovering it, was about to go to rest, & to walk no more a-bone earth, but to retire to this discomfortable and gloomy shades (vnder-ground, whither all such troubled spirits (after the second Cock crowing) hasting to be assembled. But glyding by a darke and dolefull loeing (for it was about midnight) it suddenly stopt at the sound of a voice which sorrow (who seldom laves her eyes together) sat by heavily playing vpon so late, & filling the vaulted roome with nothing but lamentations. Cock Watch darted a sudden glance in at a cranny to obserue what it was, and being delighted with the object, stept back behind certaine curtaines of Cobweb lawne, which spiders had hung there most richly, and there hid himselfe, appearing (not by the thousand part of the least fraction) halfe so big as the glimmering of a Dextons candle, standing ouer a Country Church yard in a black and silent night, where the twinkling of it is scarce discerned the distance of some mile or two off.

The thing that complained, was a man: that for age, would haue seemed Reuerend, but that Care (who sat at the bees head turning his haire into whitenesse with twill handling of it, made his countenance appeare miserable, and discontentedly was hee throwne vpon a poore and vnhandsome pallat: In his face were the Ruines of youth, In his garments, of Time: In both, the Triumphs of pouerty, His Armes were seuen times folded together, like a withered garland of willow, wo;ne

carelessly by a forsaken Lover: Sometimes did he untwinds them, but then did his handes claspe each other so harde, that betwene them they embraced many witnesses, so; now his eyes stood (like floating Islands compassed rownde with waters: his chokes like Bankes to Rivers, eaten hollow by cruell torrents. Had Adversity (with whom hee fought long) not given him any one of these scarres to be knowne by, it might easily be iudged hee was a Wretch, so; he was a Prisoner.

And albeit the rest of that wretched and forlorne household, where hee lay, knowing what happinesse they were to lose in the world, by want of their liberty, gladly suffered themselves, (like these whole lummes are to be cut of by Chirurgions,) to be cast into deepe and Lethargan slumbers, and so to take away all sense of their paine, yet hee having his heart (like Cozart whilst it is under water) continually, soft by the teares, that inwardly doopt upon it, was more tender over his affliction, and because he had sometimes beene a Scholer, though hee could reade comfort to himselfe out of his owne Libzarye, (which was his memorie) yet woundes are grievous when they receive them, senn to those that can cure them, discord seemes most harsh to the Patient, and calamity most Irkesome to the gentle Nature, such was his, it should seeme, and therfore such was his Condolement.

His Complaint

O most miserable spectacle of Creatures that I am, the wide and universall World was made (as a goodly Orchard) for thee to walke in, yet art thou denied to tread upon three times so much ground as must one day cover thee. Thou wert borne free but art likly to dye a Slave, yee and to dye in the woysse state of Slaavery, and whereas that but in a Prison Better had it beene for thee to have beene the Sonne of a common Begger, so; it then thou hadst beene smitten by the Lawe, the houres of thy punishment would quickly have runne out: But these are like Shelves of Sande

Qui nil pot
est sperare
desperet nihil
Coration qua
primam cono
stit amas
Tempera dia
rescu. molli
fuit herba
sub unda.

Iests to make you Merie.

47

Hande growing in Rinders nener to be taken away, so long
hast thou woꝛne the fetters of miserable thꝛaldome, that
thou canst scarce remember that there is such a thing as
libertie. Thy dayes haue gone ouer thee like the dreames
of a soole, thy nights like the watchings of a mad man,
numberlesse are thy hairens, numberlesse therefore must
needes be thy sorowes: soꝛ at euery hairens end both hang a
sorow.

Oh sacred libertie! with how little deuotion doe
men come into thy temples, when they cannot bestowe
vpon thee too much honour? Thy embracements are
moze delicate then those of a yong bride with her Louer,
and to be deuoyced from thee is halfe to be damned?
For what else is a Prison but the very next doore to hell:
It is a mans graue, wherein he walkes aliue: It is a
Sea wherein he is alwaies shipwackt, it is a lodging built
out of the woꝛld, it is a wilbernes where all that wander vp and
downe grow wilde, and all that come into it are deuoured, it
is an vnfallible gulfe, a leadomelesse wherlepit, an euerlasting
scaffold, on which men go dayly to execution, it is the cane where
hoꝛroꝛ dwels, it is a bed of terroꝛ, no, no, it stands not next
doore to hell, but it is hell it selfe: soꝛ soules lye languish-
ing and cannot dye. The keepers of it are churlish, and
so are Wardenes, the officers of it tormentors, and what are
torments? goeth not a man therefore toward hell when hee is
leade to a Prison? soꝛ alacke what are the comforts hee
meetes, there his wife and children griene him, when
hee beholdes them, his kinsfolkes grow blinde and can-
not see him, his friends are stricken deafe and cannot
heare his mones, they vpon whose company hee spent his
coyne and credit, will not come neere the sight of that cold
Barboꝛ where he lies, whilist others that fed him with whole-
some counsell do now laugh at his folly soꝛ refusing that
good dye.

The descrip-
tion of a
Prison.

Nulla: ad a-
miffat

What musicke hath he to cheere vpon his Spiritcs in
this

this sadnes. none but this, he heares wretches (equally miserable breaking their heart-strings, euery night with grones, euery day with sighes, euery houre with cares: the meate he eates doth make him pine, his drinke is vnto him as a poyson, if he haue money he shall there soone consume it, if he want it, he must be sure to consume himselfe,

How cruell therefore is death in striking the rich man amongst his heapes of gold, in doting the voluptuous man in his dype cups of wine, in damning the Letcher in the fires of his lust but how much moze cruell is he to the poore Prisoner only in sparing him.

When knels ring out (abzoade) for ioy that soules haue made a voyage to heauen, what sorow is amongst them that were by at the leane taking, what shrikes are heard from the wiues, because they are become widdowes? what sobbings from the children, because they are become Orphanes, what complaints from seruants, because they are left comfortlesse, what lamentings flow from friends, because Societie is broken: yet even then when the warning peeces of men so newly departed from the shores of life, gos off, the languishing Prisoner lying on his melancholy bed, abruptly shakes off al other cogitations, and as one wapt with ioy for his friends good fortune, suddenly cries out to himselfe, Oh happy man art thou, that by the hands of death art thus set at libertie; but most vnfortunate am I that coueting him day and night, I can no wayes get in to his fauour. A Prison there is so dreadfull a place that death feares to enter it, the grates are so strong and so narrow, & the lockes so full of wardes and so many, the roomes so wide, and so vnwhollome, the beds so pestered with guests, and yet so old, the dyet so costly and yet so sparing, the family so great and yet so vnruely, that death would thinke it moze then double death to himselfe to abite in so strange a lodging, or else men that are compelled to lye there are such sorrowne and miserable wretches, that death scoynes to be seene in their company, &c, &c, it is so.

Dulce noui miseris sed mors optata refugit,

This

Lefts to make you Merie.

57

These Latin bullets, were shot so heavily out of the olde mans mouth, (like the songs of fiddlers when they be over-watcht) That sleepe bearing him so wrongd by his brother (Death) and taking pittie on his græses, layd charmes vppon the lids of his eies, and bound them fast vp in slumbers. At which our nymble Ignis Fatuus, that all this while stood Centinell in a darke Coznr, vanisht out of that place, and like a peece of fire-worke running on a line, was, (in the turning of an eye,) at another, (whether if you please) let vs follow him.



A Paradox in praise of Sergiants, and of a Prison.



Mr Petigate-Bird (whose notes you haue heard before) spreading his Dragon-like wings, (which with a horred & fainting sound, brake open the Ayre before him) rested himselfe in his flight, on the tops of many other polluted houses, and looking downe (sometimes through chimneys, and sometimes in at dozmer windows that stood gaping wide open to swallow by the ayre,) he beheld a thousand Synnes, that in the Shapes of Bats, Skreack-owles, and such other ominous mid night-walkers, wasted the balwy night in shameles and godlesse Reuillings, but in the day-time, like shailles they lye coner'd, hiding in caues their ugly and deformed heads. Of all which hee taking notes, with purpose to sing their liues openly to the world, when he is perfect in their tunes, hee spent all the next day in a thauish thicket, not far from the Citie, to practise the Straynes by himselfe, but the Sun going to bed, being his houre to rise, forth flutters he againe, close by the edge of darknesse houerling vnder the Ceues of the suburbs, till hee heard watchmen cald to their browne bills, & till Vintners were ready to adiourne their Sessions, and to araigne no moze at their fearefull Barres till the next morning: Just at that time (being much about the houre when spirits begin their round) did he enter the citie, and passing by a Tauerne doore, he might behold a tumultuous crew, (like drunken wauces) reeling from one side to the other; the whirlewinde that rais'd this tempest, beeing nothing else then the clapping of one on the shoulders that was watcht for when he came out of his cup, you would haue thought the Allarum had bene giuen, and that the Citie had bene

beene in an vp202e, so2 you might heare the clashing of s2wo2ds, the hacking of bills, and such a confused noise, as if all the Di-
mels in hell had fallen together by y2 eares. Some cald so2 mo2e
lights, others to put out, some cryed clubs, others to strike him
downe, those then had the greater part s2wo2e, all shewed as if
they had bin mad, yet on they went, holding a kinde of o2der-
ly p2oc2eeding in this diso2der.

Cock-Watch followed them aloofe by the noyse, till he came
to one of the Counc2ter gates, which p2esently flew open mo2e
suddenly, then if they had beene blowne vp with powder, and
as suddenly were hard vp againe: At which the thunder-bolt
b2roke, that kept befo2e such a rumbling, rash Phaeton, that
set a2il on fire, was th2owne headlong into a lodging, the fury
of the multitude was quencht, and euery one went to his pil-
low. Onely the good Dæmon, whose nature it was to sit out
the very last Sc2ene, of such Tragi-comedies, followed the
cheife Acto2 (that played This) eu2en vp into his bed-chamber,
where he was fast enough lockt all night, to rehearse his parts
by himselfe.

The waking Cock had softly clymbd vp to such another
Roof, as he sat vpon the night befo2e, so2 the Inne was all one,
but the Guests were not alike.

This was not an old Souldier, that had bene beaten to the
wars of Calamity, (as the fo2mer was) & being wounded in the
lay now sick and groaning on his bed so2 cures: But this was
a first man in the schole of the World; A gallant that had spent
much, and learnt little, one whose outside onely shewed he was
a Gentleman, (so2 within the sumptuous tombe of him, was
nothing but Carcas) It was one vnto whome Vsurers, and
Citizens would offer vs Golden and silken robes (as once the
Heathen did to the Images of their Gods) because they knew he
was bo2ne to Acres, and now to make him wise, and to take
h2ede, what pasture he b2eakes into next, haue they put him (like
a Jade into a p2ownd) into a p2ison.

Where, (because this was the first time that hee eu2er
came to the Ten-penny Ordinarie) he went cur2ling vp and
downe

downe to thinke himselfe so base to leane that by Paules-wharfe, to come in to this: he bid the crosses of the plaine in all Persers bookes, wist he had neuer beene brought bp like a gentleman, to this wzing and reading, damnd Scriueners & bond-makers to the deepest pit of hell. Stamp, Stared, toze his haire, called for faggots and wine, misusde the keepers, and cryed to euery one of them, doe you heare goodman Rogue, yet swoze to make them drunke, but they making many lyes in mockery to his good wo:ship, counsaile him to take his naps, and so were ready to turne the key vpon him, and their tailed both at one time, but he stroaking bp a handfull of his haire in diuerse parts of his heace, as if he had some great matter there to fetch out, & thumping the table with his fist: as if he had beene coniuring bp a diuill, cald for pen and inke, and bowde that might not lye in the streetes of captiuitie.

The instruments of Learning being set before him, and the roome cleared after five or six paire of oathes were spet forth (like wild-fire) to thinke how hee was taken like a woodcocke (being in the company of the onely gallants) and how he was drayde along, and how scurvily he was vsde in wo:ds: hee sharply began to rayle against Sergiants, because they knew not their Gamoth, neither had any musick in them, & yet durst presume to teach him, (that was a Gentleman) one of the chiefest notes in musick viz. Counter tenor, he swoze he would haue the statute of Garbling sued vpon them for offering Pace to men that was able to poylen them, as for Marshals men, the blacke booke did neuer so tickle them as he would. The next heard whose heades like mad Ajax he bowed to cut off, were Bailifes, he calde them pooze Snakes that lye in euery corner at the townes endes, to sting passengers to death, if theyumble but vpon them, and comparde them to hoznets & great humming flies, that are bred out of cowshards, yet held them the basest Goblins that walked bp and downe the Suburbs, because they were Buttery-bugs, that lay scouting only in balwdy and beggerly Tay-houses.

The Linstock that gaue fire to these Canon threats of our yong

young Colonell of cockneyes, against three such mighty commanders, was kindled partly out of his feare, and partly out of an intelligence that both citie and country were layd for him, and that purties and liberties had mousetraps set to catch him; but looking, well vpon the smoaky wals, and the singed roose of his lodging and remembryng that he was but in one of the Counters, he resolved to put on the cloake of mercie, and to spare the two last for a time, but to drawe out the sworde and dagger of his iustice, and to stab home the first, for arresting him, and cooping him vp, (like poultry ware,) and they were the Sergeants.

Against them would he write Inuectiues Satyres, Lybals, Rimes, yea causeth such Jambicks as Archilocus made against Lycambes, or such stufte as Hipponap, the painter of Ephasus: this very inke should be Squacized out of the guts of toades: His pens should be cut out of Indian Canes after the heads of them were poplond, and his paper made of the filthy linnen rags that had bene wapt about the infected and vlceroous bodies of beggers, that had dyed in a ditch of the pestilence. But behold, Nocte pluit tota, redeunt spectacula mane. It thundered and lightened all night, yet was it a faire day the very next morning for furious Tamberlaine, who as you heard, was cutting out 3 sorts of banners for his 3 sworn enemies, he had scarce taken a nap ouer his inch-pot that stood iust vnder his nose, whilest he leaned on his elbow writing out crabbed faces as he studied for bitter words to begin his execrations. But into his chamber came these; who the night before, as he thought made him to suffer persecution: they gave him the kinde good morrow, told him where his cloake and rapier were, protested they were sorry for him or any gentleman whose vnrulines inforces them to vse them hardly, and that for his arrest they could not preuent it, nor refuse it, because the Creditors were at their elbowes, yet would they ride or runne, and do any office of friendship to worke his deliuerie, and to shew how much they deserued to comfort him, they askt him what he would drinke next his heart, but he that not an houre before

had nothing but daggers in his mouth, leaps about their necks, calls them mad Greekes, true Troians, commands a gallon of sacke & sugar to be burnt for the Sergiants, and muscadell, and egges to be uise for the yeamen, empties his pockets of Tobacco to both, drinks a health to them all, & swears he will ouer into the Low Countries, and for loue or money get a Captains place, (though he neuer be a Souldier) only to make them Sergiants of his company: And whereas befoze their comming into his roome, he had a foolish humo: to pistoll them with paper-bullets shot out of pen & inke-boznes, he protesteth (with his eyes lifted vp to heauen, higher then his heade) that now he will waite Palinodes Recantations, and Retractions, yea he will presently eate his owne words, though he were sure like Earle Goodwines drink they should choake him, and therefore because he felt the diuine fury creeping into his braine, he requested them to play off the sacke and begon, for he would instantly powze out a parador to their praises, which should do them more honour when they were deade, then twentie Epitaphes, they thank him for his paines, and in requittall promise to deale with his Philistines. (his creditors) that are now come vpon him, to see if they could take them off, and so departed, their backs being turne, thus he beginnes.

What a ranke Pagon am I to with distraction to this Temple of peace. What Infidels are all you (for by this time all that lay on the maisters side were swarming about him,) what Infidels are all you, that cannot bee brought into a beleefe, that there is no place of safety but a Prison? Looke vpon your loogings, Looke vpon your walkes, Looke vpon your Wallwarkes, Looke vpon any thing that is worth the looking vpon, and you may safely sweare no Lord liues such a life as a Prisoner, for note by what staires he climbs vp to his state. At his first entrance is hee led through the staires in pompe, and the more coyle he keeps, (I speake it by experience, my brane garnish drinkers, vpon yesternights worke) the more gallantly comes he in triumph,

Iests to make you Merie.

63

so; then Clubbes are cryed, hath bes his guarde of Pat-berders, then doe an hundred of Voluntaries follow at his heeles, when befoze he could scarce keepe one man, being entred, the gates are strongly shut, and there stands his Doxters and double Doxters, all whom he keepes in fear: his Cookes are ready to prouide his Diet, if his purse haue a stomack; his Clarkes likewise are attendant in their offices, and all these do line by him, when he goes to bed, so carefull are they ouer his life, and his sooth coming againe, that he cannot lye downe but he is watcht.

How worthy therefore are they to lye by the heeles, that dare not come neere a Prison, and are ashamed to enter it, because tis ginen out that none shall lye there but swaggers and Banckerupts, that it is a place of ill husbandrie, a receptable for theenes, a drinking house for Beggers, and that though a man commit all the villanies that are set downe in the Chronicles, yet there he shall be sure to lye safe. But Oh you that thus goe about to slander such Ancient houses, (which you cannot doe, how much do you overshoot your selues? Is not a Prison the only best schoole, (founded by our foze-fathers) wherein is learnt Experience? Experience breeds Wisedome, Wisedome is mother to Honour, Honour to Riches, Riches to Heartsease, so then on the tree of Thraldome, you see you may gather the fruits of contentation.

I speake this to the comfort of all Captaines, and Lieutenants, whome a little swelling of Warre, makes proude, and the lazinesse of a peace, makes arrant beggars, and where can they appoint a better Rander-vous, than in a Prison? I speake it for the good of all yong Quats, who (being sent bp by the honest farmers (their Fathers) to be turned into Gentlemen by finding the Law, study onely how to Moote, that is, how to cast all their feathers, and to what nest can they fly, to lye warme in, and to hide their nakednesse, but into this goodly bird-cages? O you that are the

Poets of these sinfull times, (ouer tohome the Players haue now got the vpper hand, by making fooles of the pooze country people, in doting them like flocks of Geese to sit cackling in an old barne: and to swallow downe those playes, for new, which here euery punch and her squire (like the Interpreter and his poppet) can rand out by heart, they are so stale, and therefore so stincking. I know the Lady Pecunia and you come very hardly together, & therefore trouble not you vpon this ancient Theater, you present, your Tragical Scenes, for here you shall be sure to be clapt, pay your mercenary soldiers, or you that are the Switzers to players (I meane the hired men) by all the plog-nostications that I haue seene this yeare, you make but a hard and a hungry lining of it, by strowting vp and downe after the Waggon; Leane therefore I leane the company of such as lick the fat from your beards (if you haue any) and come hether, for here I know you will bee Sharers.

Lastly, O you Citizens, & you whose craft lies in your hands, It may go warmer to your harts than Sack, or Aqua vitæ, whē you shall know that (by keeping in your shops, plaugy vacati- ons, and lame termes, that haue their lymbs cut off.) you your selues are scarce able to stand, yet that (Here) you may imploy your stocks; for in a prison men of all Trades, of all professions, may set vp, by the Customes of the Citie.

But admit these Castles of no comfort (as the ignozant vulgar termes them) had no such appropziations, Charters, nor priuiledges belonging to them, and that they had not such Ordinance in them, nor were so well mand, as they are: yet the very martiall discipline, by which they are held vp, is sufficient (alone) to giue them superlatiue commendations.

For what place of Gouernment (in any Comon-wealth) both more resemble a Campe than a Prison? The Keepers of it, and the vnder-Keepers, and the Colonels and Captains, and they command all: then haue Sergiants, and they double the Fyles: then haue you Clarcks of Bonds, and they be Attorneys: then haue you Serieants, and they double the Fyles: then haue you Clarcks of the Bonds, and they be Attorneys, Clarcks, who fly out and
in.

in, and discouer to the besieged prisoner how the enemies hart (his creditor) lyes misconde in hardnesse, or with what powre of Councillors, witnesses, petty or grand iury men, hee comes marching downe to glue him battaile, then haue you Pioners, and they be the lame messengers (of the house) who with Paper instruments (cald tickets) hobble from place to place, to vndermine friends abroad, to try what they will doe, and these may properly as I saide befoze, be called Pioners, for these help to dig out the Prisoner. Nay a Prison does yet come nearer to a Campe, by many degrees, & can shew farre moze noble markes of it than the former: for Prisoners lye as hard as Soldiers, drinck as hard as soldiers, sweare as hard as souldiers, goe as tattered as soldiers, are as louzy as soldiers, as discontent as soldiers, go cursing vp and downe as bzauely as soldiers, and to conclide, are as little regarded as soldiers.

How much then are we beholden to them that keepe vs here in pay? nay what thanks are they woorthy of, that put vs vnto so strong a garrison, and who be those but Sericants? Sericants are the cunning pilots that in all stormes bring men safely to these hauens of peace and contemplation: the compasse they saile by, is the Law, which is toucht by the Loadstone of Reason; the poynts of that compasse, are the customs of the Citty, vpon which, whosoever kepes not directly, he runs himselfe on the sands, and so sincks, or vpon rocks, and so splits.

Sericants are those nymble-footed Cenii, that walke at mens elbowes (on either side, one) to keepe them vpright. They are neither Russians nor Turkes (though some count them) that beat ill debter son the shinnes, or on the soles of their fete (like executioners) to make them confesse the debt, But (knowing how coldly an ill word from their mouth goes to a mans hart, when any by chance fall into their company, they presently play the phisitions, and counsell him to step into a Lauerne, & to drinck wine to comfort his pooze hart, or if wine doe no good, then to send for his friends aboute him, to try if the sight of them can make him any better, and this is an act pitious and charitable.

So that to a man that is meatfied in flesh, and whose state (in

this world) is desperate, a Sergiant may serue instead of a Deaths head, to put him in minde of his last day, and what hee is to come to.

They are called in Latine (and so set downe vppon Records seruientes ad Clauum: and most properly haue they that title bestowed vpon them: for Clauus hath many fields quartred out in Herauldry, and all are the Ensignes of a Sergiants armes, sometimes Clauus signifies a Payle, and fitly may they challenge a dignity by that word, for they are Naylers of me to their words, promises, Contracts, Bills, Bonds, & Reckonings, they ioyne them to the Grounds of the Law and Justice, from whence (like vnseasoned boards that warpe and fly out) they would (but for them) start and reuolt. Sometimes Clauus is taken for a Key, and thereby likewise haue they an Atcheiement of hono: for what are Sergiants but strong Keyes (that can hardly bee broken) to open mens harts and make them looke into their estates and by looking to know themselues, which the Philosopher saith is the onely wisdom in the world, and the hardest to learne, Clauus is also a club, the double propertie of which is in every officer, for his duety is (& so is his oath) to beate downe wrong and to guard the Right; he must as sone strike the rich, as the poore, and be as ready to take the poore mans part, as the rich, he is like death to spare no man. All which attributes, necessarily depend vpon his function, and because no one word could simply in it selfe expresse them all, they were made vp into one lump or masse together, and of them all (beeing so compounded) is made the Serieants Pace, which is nothing else but the Badge of his place, and figure of his authoritie.

What should I say more of Sergiants, though I cannot speake too much of them? they are the painfulllest members of the common wealth: they are the lawes Factors, the Citizens men of Warre, that bring in bad Dettoys, who like pirates haue leizd vpon others goods, as lawfull prize: they are the Scriueners good Lords and maisters, they are Relieuers of prisoners, good Benefactors, to Vintners Hall: they are keepers of young Gentlemen, from who:ehouses, and driuers of poore Handicrafts men, from
bow

bowling allies, In one word they are the only bringers-home of
 the prodigall Child, to feede vpon beale after he hath liued vpon
 Acorns. The officers that by reason of the burnt Sack went
 forth with hye cullozs before, are now in smoaking cloudes
 of Swear returned back againe, as if it had bene iust their Qu.
 to enter at the sag end of their commendations: the newes that
 they brought (vno ore) and which they vttered with a hye and
 full mouth together, was, that he must presently goe along with
 them and meete all his creditors (in a moze dangerous place
 than the field) in a Lauerne; for toy of which, he bestowed his
 vltimum in wine vpon his fellow commoners, who were all
 busie in prouiding pen ynck and paper, to register (In eternam
 rei memoriam) his learned Encomium of them, their colledge,
 and their officers, whilst hee descended in moze state of atten-
 dants, then he came vp in, for the most part of his money (which
 flew out as easily as smoake out of a Tobacco pipe) was cut
 out (like loynes of mutton at the Jnnes) in fees, and a generall
 volley of Farewels from all the grates being shot off at his de-
 parture, the key was turnd, and he

Vno graditur comitatus Achate.

bath no moze but one onely Serieant wayting vpon him, (to a-
 uoide wonder) whilst the rest of the Infanterie, that tooke him
 prisoner, came marching softly behinde, to share in his ransome
 Cock-Watch had no great desire to follow, but stealing out, (as
 he came in) like an Owle from an Iuy tod, he made hast to his
 old Rendez because Sessions was at hand, where what is done
 the Cryer will proclaim it.

FINIS.